



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
AUSTIN

GERALD C. MANN  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Hon. Homer Garrison, Jr., Director  
Department of Public Safety  
Camp Mabry  
Austin, Texas

Dear Sir:

Opinion No. O-1456

Re: May the Department of Public Safety continue  
work described under Article 4413  
that requires attendance at conventions.

We received your letter of September 15, 1939, requesting our opinion as to whether or not it would be permissible for the Department of Public Safety employees to continue to attend conventions in connection with promoting or carrying out the work set out in Article 4413 (15) Sections 3 and 4; Article 4413 (17) Section 4 and Article 4413 (19) in view of Section C in the general rider to the General Appropriation Bill providing:

"No moneys herein appropriated shall ever be spent to pay the traveling expenses of any State employee to any type of convention within this State or without this State."

A "convention" is an organized body of delegates or representatives assembled for some specified purpose. State v. Johnson, 46 Pac. 533; State ex rel Stofferdt v. Gifford, 126 Pac. 1064.

Since no broader prohibition could have been made by the Legislature than the phrase "any type of convention within this State or without this State," it is apparent that an employee of the Department of Public Safety cannot be reimbursed for traveling expenses out of State funds when attending a convention.

In our Opinion No. O-1272, dated September 7, 1939, directed to the Honorable Roy Loventhal, Chairman, Livestock Sanitary Commission, we ruled that it would not be permissible for members of that Department to be reimbursed out of the traveling expenses appropriated to the Livestock Sanitary Commission when attending meetings called by the Chairman in

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towns or cities in Texas at a point where a committee or conference of representative Stockmen meet in called, regular or annual session, if the prime purpose of calling such meeting at such point and time be to enable the members and employees of the Department to attend such convention or meeting of representative stockmen at State expense.

Yours very truly

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

By (Signed)  
Cecil C. Cammack  
Assistant

CCC:RS

APPROVED OCT 7, 1939

Robert E. Kepke (signed)

ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

(STAMPED) Approved  
Opinion Committee  
By: BWB, Chairman